



Witts Tearme.



Witts stand feeding
of your Lawyer with fees,
like two hedge sparrowes
that feede the Cuckow,
and pine your selves ; For
I will describe the Law

Witts descrip-
tion of the
Law.

unto you briefly and faithfully : yet so
that I will not detract from the dignity
of so honorable a studie. The Law is
good in it selfe, and becomes evill only,
when it is inherent in an evill man, as
good wine may bee corrupted by the ves-
sell that containes it. It is like a young
twigge, or a leaden ruler, which may be
wrythed or bent any way : It is sharpe
and severe, and considers onely what is
iust, without regard of equity. The cases
of the Law are infinite, and doe daily in-
crease, for they are matters that have
bene adiudged, and are now as it were
the examples of the Law. A Bill in

*Lex est Regi
plumbca.*

Witts Tearme..

*Annus Plato-
icus or Pla-
es yeare.*

Law is a tedious narration or declarati-
on of the clients cases, which is written
in wide spreading hand to enlarge the
Clarkes fees. That Action and Passion
are two Predicaments of the law. That
the motions are without motion, and as
slow as the revolution of the Planet Sa-
turne, for Plato told his Schollers that
when this Planet had performed his na-
turall and retrograde motion, that he and
they should meeete againe, and hee should
reade unto them in that manner as hee
did then. Besides, though this planet is
slow, yet still he goeth forward; but there
are many waies to delay and protract the
Courts and proceeding of the Law, as
Jaiunctions, Billes of Rebeiw and the
like. That the blame is laid upon the
Lawyers, when the fault is in the Cli-
ents, for if they would unfold their cases
faithfully, the Lawyers would end their
sutes more speedily. That Attorneyes
are like Andirons that hold up their
Clients as the other doth the Billets,
untill they have consumed and wasted
one another: In a word, the law is
good in it selfe, for it makes badd men
good, though sometime as I said by acci-
dent

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dent it make good men badd. And to conclude the Law is like a Labozinth, you may enter in, but it is hard to finde the way out againe; And therefore good friends having giben you a brieft view of prospect into the Law, I would desire you to change your purpose & intention, and not to goe to law, for it is better to live securely at home, and to spend your time quietly among your neighbours, than to come up every Tearme to London with a great bagge of Booke of Writings at your girdle, when your selbes doe understand nere a letter in the Booke but Ho and G, or rather G Ho; and though I speake against my selfe being a Lawyer. (for the world doth falsly imagine that Lawyers doe strive to nourish the flame of contention) yet I will discharge a good conscience, and rather perswade men to live in amitie & friendship, than to contend in Law, and I doubt not but I shall get both love and money by it, and while I make them friends, and reconcile them one to another, I hope they will prove my friends, howsoever Conscientia est mille testes: the contentment and happinesse of a good

Witt perswade
deth the two
Countrymen
to live at
Peace

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Witt playes
the honest
lawyer.

conscience is farre more pzeious then
the friendship of men: And therefore
honest Countrymen, you see that I have
plaid the honest Lawyer, and laid open
unto you the inconueniencies of going to
law, so that I would advise you to agree
with your Landlord, submit your selfe
unto him, liue quietly among your neigh-
bours, keepe good houses, looke to your
husbandry, feare God, honour the King,
and doe good in your Country, so you shall
liue contentedly, and dye happily, for
those that love peace, shall liue in peace,
joy, and felicity after this life is ended.

When the Country men had heard
Witts discourse, truth like a thorne
prickt them so to the heart, that they both
confest that hee had told them more then
ever they heard before; that one of them
who had bene Constable of the Towne,
and therefore could speake with some in-
discretion began thus:

Sir, you have made such a rescription of
going to law, & how unfit it is for us In-
grant men to follow the law, so that wee
intend to leaue it off and follow the
Plough, for our stomackes are now rea-
sonably well allayd, and therefore we de-
sire

Witts Tearme.

Will you accept of this halfe peece for your
fee, for your counsell shall save us many
a pound, and besides wee have a quart of
wine for you if you please to goe to the
Taberne. Witt thanked them, and
told them that albest it was not his
usuall custome to be seene in Tabernes,
especially not to tarry there long, yet hee
would dispence with other affaires, to
gibe them content, and so Witt and the
two Countrymen went to the Taberne
together, but as soone as the dralwer spide
Witt, hee presently gave him the bien-
venu or welcome, & straightway brought
him to one of the best roomes, and then
he told him, that the night before there
was like to have beene a bloody fray for
lacke of your worshippes company, for
as soone as you were gone, some beganne
to commend you, and to say, that master
Witt was as fine a merry a companion
as any in Europe: others againe reply-
ed that you were a foule companion, that
would gibe distaste in all companies,
and had rather loose your friend than your
iell; and this was maintained and ar-
gu'd pro and con, so that at length they
had proved it by breaking one anothers
heads

Witt and the
two Country-
men go to the
Taberne.

Witts Tearmē.

heads with quart potts, if my Maſter had not moderated the matter, ſoꝛ aſſoone as you left them, they were quite gone. It is no wonder ſayes Witt that they were gone in drinke aſſoone as I was gone from them, ſoꝛ I doe alwaies ſtay with my friends as long as I can, but when I perceiue that the ſtrength of the drinke beginnes to worke upon their braines, then I ſteale from them, ſo that I ſtay not untill the reckoning comes to be paid, whereupon they being in drinke, and wanting me to make the reckoning, doe often fall out and quarrell, either about that, oꝛ ſome other occaſion. But to leave off this diſcourſe, prethee drawer bring us a quart of rich canarie, ſoꝛ my ſelfe and my friends, ſuch as I and the Witts drinke, if thou canſt draw us a cuppe of Nectar, lets have it. Sir, ſayes the draw-er, you ſhall have of the beſt; ſoꝛ I ſhould probe my ſelfe an ignoramus if I ſhould bring you any but the beſt. Well (ſayes Witt) fly then like a winged ſpirit to the bottom of the Sellar and fetch it, and ſo exit drawer and drawes the curtaine lea-ving Witt and the Countymen together, who began to diſcourſe thus unto them :

Witts Tearme.

them: you see (honest friends that I endeavour to make peace wheresoeber I come, for there is never any quarrelling in Tabernes or Alehouses if I be there, but as soon as I goe, then they fall out about the Arithmeticke of their reckoning, or the wrong apprehension of some word, so that the mistaking of a word is many times taken amisse, and then they are so farre entrag'd, that in stead of other complements, they salute one anothers heads with quart pots, the glasses are broken, the tables overthrowne, the candles are extinguish't, and the Tobacco pipes are throwne in one anothers faces, and thus their kindnesse (as soon as I forsake their company) ends in a drunken quarrell. By this time they might heare the eccho of the drawers voyce, who cryd, scoze a quart of canary in the halfe mone, and no sooner had hee spoke those words but he came flying in, and having filled a glasse and delivered it to Witt, hee heard them knocke in another roome, so that he vanisht and left them. And now being alone, Witt first dranke to the Countrymen with a complement, telling them that he would commemozate all his

and

*Ingenium est
pacificum.
Witt is a
Peacemaker*

*The description of a
drunken quarrell.*

*Witt drink
a health to
friends.*

Witts Tearme.

and their friends in the Countrey, both Gentlemen, Yeomen, and merry Citizens, & also his kind friends in the foure Innnes of Court, and also in the two Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and in generall to all his friends vbiunque, or whersoever. The Countrymen replied that they would pledge his worship with all their hearts. Nay (saies Witt) I beseech you not to worship mee, for it is a title which I neither deserue, nor desire, though I haue bene borne and brought up as a Gentleman, and am respected both by Gentlemen and Knights, for I was well acquainted with Sir Phillip Sidney when he writ his Arcadia, and sir Iohn Harrington when hee composed his merry Epigrams; and indeede there is none accomplisht Gentleman that doth not desire my company, you must pardon me if I praise my selfe, for it is giuen to us that are the family of the Witts to be selfe conceited, and to set too high a price on our gifts, but to set a period to my speech, I drinke to you both most kind and honest countrymen, for to discover the truth unto you, I am no Lawyer; Law is too obtuse, and blunt a studie for mee,

it respect-
by Gentle-
men and
rights.
ia habet in-
ium inimi-
ni si igno-
tem.
itt hath no
emy but ig-
rance.

Witts Tearme:

me, for though I dissembled the matter
my name is Witt, and I am as sociall a
companion as the best of them all, for
indeede there is no good society or mirth
without I be in company. Your Gal-
lants will never visit a Taberne but
they will carry mee with them, though
they can not bring me backe againe, so
that they are faine at night to goe to their
Lodging without mee, but the next mo-
rning I visite them againe with an early
salutation; and then they give mee my
mornings draught according to the time
and season of the yeers. But I will not
bee tedious in my discourse for I affect
brevity, and is not this harmelesse mirth
far better than to goe to Law, had not
wee better drinke our selves, than to
make the Lawyers and their Clarke
drinke wine upon our cost, and therefore
good Countrymen I doe commend my
love unto you in this glasse of wine. They
both thanked him, and thus they continu-
ed drinking, but as Mercury with the
sweetnesse of his pipe did enchant Argus
his hundred eyes, so Witt with pleasant
discourses drew on the Countrymen into
such a kinde and loving humour, that
they

There is no
good societie
unlesse Witt
be in compa-
ny.

Witts Tearmē.

*Vinum,
nollit mores
e similes
res.
ine softness
r nature
d condition
nd giveth us
gentle dispo-
sition.*

*o eat some
de mod-
m when
u are drin-
ag is the
ay to make
er stay in
ur company*

*so much
nking
ds Witt
king.*

they began to drinke to Witt with such
rurall Complements, and dunsstable be-
haviour, so that Witt could not chuse but
smile to see how the wine did mollifie
and soften their rude nature, insomuch
that with great store of nonsense and
countrey complements, they began to bee
so ober-kind to Witt, that they would
needes drinke his mistresses health, but
Witt told them that hee honored no Mi-
stresses but vertue, and desired them not
to prophane her name by any idle health,
but Witts perswasions could not re-
straine them from their troublesome
kindnesse, so that in hope they should per-
swade Witt to stay with them, they
would needes have a slice or two of a
Gammon of Bacon, which was straight
brought them with all expedition, and
Witt stayed with them a while, but
when they had done, one of the Country-
men would needes have a quart of Sacke
to dribe downe their bacon, but this quart
lent Witt packing, so that he slipt away
from them, neither could they discerne
how hee went away from them, for they
were so blinde, that they imagined that
Witt was still in their company, and
the

Witts Tearme.

the Drawer could not perswade them hee
was gone, so that after Witt had left
them hee was much troubled with these
two countrey fellows, for one of them by
chance brake a venice glasse and would
by no meanes be perswaded to pay for it,
and the others stomack began to recople,
so that hee cast up his reckonings in the
chimney; but at last with much a doe,
having got what they would of one of
them for breaking the glasse, they thrust
out these two Animals out of the Ta-
berne doore, where one of them reeled a-
gainst the other, and both of them at last
fell in the kennell, but getting up againe
they thought to go to Witts lodging to en-
quire of him what was the signe of the
Jone where they lay, but they were so
drunke that they could not find his cham-
ber; so that they fell into the Constables
hands, and because they gave him rude
words and churlish answers, hee carried
them both to the Counter, where they lay
that night, but in the morning as soon as
Witt understood that his friends were in
the Counter he came again to them very
early in the morning, and began to excuse
himselfe for leaving them overnight: for

To two C
try men tal
by the War

Witt visits
them next
morning in
the Counte

saies

Witts Tearme.

Witts advise
the Coun-
men at
sing.

sayes hee, when I see men begin to grow
idle in their drinke, and to call for more
than will doe them good, then I cannot
endure to stay with them any longer.
And therefore because I have other af-
faires, so that I keepe you company any
longer, I will give you some friendly ad-
vice. First, beware of going to Law,
least you pay for your expence when it is
too late: Shunne idle company, beware
of Dice, Drabs, and Drunkenesse: En-
ter not into Bond, make not your wifes
your masters, in company be merry and
wise, consider of every action befoze hand
what will follow afterward, cut your
coate according to your cloath, esteeme
not all offers of friendship, but mistrust
faire words, keepe money and make it
your servant not your master, let not your
friend know all your minde, but reserve a
peece to thy self, for a friend may become a
foe, moderate thy passions, governe thy self
and then thou shalt be able to governe thy
household and family: this is my counsell,
and now I hope Witt hath proved him-
self no pettifogger, but an honest lawyer,
for I have given you my free opinion
concerning the Law, yet not disgracing
that

that studie in any kinde, and I have
shewed you the inconueniences which a-
rise by contentions, suites, & have given
you some bylese notes of instruction. In
a word I wish you both as well as my
selfe, and if you love mee I wish you to
leave of drunkennes, for I cannot indure
it, it spoyle my braines, for albeit I can
and doe keeps company with all sorts of
men, yet I never stay with them till they
are drunke, and (though I speake it in
my owne behalfe) yet I can prove that
I endeavour to restraine men from vaine
and idle courses, whereunto they doe often
runne through their owne folly, I will
therefore goe along with you from the
Counter to the Iustices, and after he
hath discharged you, I will take my
leave of you and commit you to the pro-
tection of your owne good fortunes: And
so after the Iustice had released them,
Witt directed them the readiest way to
their Anne, and so left them: And thus
you see how Witt got a see of these two
Country fellowes, and in stead of plea-
ding for them, he perswaded them to live
at peace, and leave off going to Law,
which sheweth that if moze had Witt they

Witts Tearme.

Virt & good
fellowship are
friends, but
Witt & drun-
kenness are
foes.

would not be contentious : and lastly you
may behold how Witt and Drunkenesse
cannot agree, for they are contraries, and
contraria se mutuo expellunt, contraries
doe one expell the other ; for as water
quenches fire, so Drinke downes and ex-
tinguishes the Witt. And Witts counsell
which he gave the countrymen sheweth,
that want of a fore-Witt brings woe ;
for ante cuvere debet, qui non dolebit,
hee that would not fall into miserie or
want, must be wise beforehand : and so
much concerning Witts first practise,
his second practise follows, but to re-
fresh the reader I will insert some verses,
which Witt made by way of observation
on a Taberne, and the nature and dispo-
sition of a Countryman, which may serve
as Charactericall descriptions of
them both.

Witts Tearme.

A Taverne.

A Taverne is a place which *Bacchus* trayne
Frequent, and drinke till wine doe them inflame
It is a place where ancient friends doe shew
Their love; on this stage you may clearely view
Divers conceited humours which are plaid
By severall companies, or it is the mint
Where Witt doth coyne his fancies, for a print
Of wine more readily inspires the braine
Then water though from *Hellicon* it came.
Some talke of forraine matters and wonders
Of a deepe apprehension, who have beene
Perhaps at *Callis*, while on a faire day (w
Their shippes through the calme seas did cut her
The Channells alwaies burne in stead of paper
To light Tobacco which is a rich vapour.
Heere loving friends with weeping eyes doe part
While they expresse the affection of their heart
In a full cup, and with kind words commend
Themselves unto their loving absent friend.
It is a Chappell, where divers every day
At *Bacchus* Alter pay, but doe not pray.
I doe not hate a Taverne nor the wine
Yet Ile shun expence, and wasting of my time.
In such a place, I doe allow the use
Of both, but disapprove their foule abuse.

Witts Tearme.

rinke in a Taverne for thy recreation
ut dwell not there, nor makt thy habitation.
or a Taverne is a place where men nere cease
o keepe a Leaguer in the times of peace.

A Countryman.

A Countryman is blunt in spæch and action
Yet he is given much to suites and faction.
e doth not cheate his friend with the smoth art
of flattering words, but speaks even from his heart.
his countenance is cheerefull; and his cloathes
laine like his meaning, nor with swaggering oaths
oath pay his debts, nor make his trembling host
glad to write downe his reckoning on a post.
his conscience is free, and he doth wonder
Why guiltie men doe feare a clap of thunder.
As bloody *Nero* who would hide his head
When it did thunder underneath a bed.
Content is his chiefe riches and his wealth;
While the fresh ayre doth keepe him in good health.
His life is harmelesse, striving not to gaine
Ambitious honour, or to purchase fame.
The sight of a milch cow or a greene field
Doe please him highly, and much solace yee ld.
Vnto his minde, while he doth plodding goe
Clad in course russet, which doth plainely show
How little he esteemes of pride, or fashions
Which are brought over out of forraine nations:

And

Witts Tearmie.

And when pale death commands him to resigne
His life, then doth his resolution shine (pe
Even like the Sunne, whose glistering beames a
When it is going downe most bright, and cleare.
He does repose small trutt in the Physitian
In his sicknesse, for it is his chiefe ambition
To preferre his soule, that it may mount the ksies
And have a place in heaven when he dyes.

Chap. 2.

*How Witt having put off his Lawyers
Gowne, disguised himselfe in the habit of
a Citizen, and so keeping company with all
sorts of people, hee observed and noted their
Persons, their humours, qualities, and fa-
shions, of which he makes certaine brieve dis-
criptions*



When Witt was delibered Witt disgu
from the company of those himselfe
two country fellowes, who a Citizen.
he perswaded before to live
in peace and amitie with
their neighbours and Landlord, hee left
off playing Ignoramus in his Lawyers
Gowne, and disguised himselfe in the ha-
bit of a Citizen, that thereby hee might
with-

Witts Tearme.

without suspicion conuerse, and keepe company with all sorts of people, and obserbe their humours, and fashions. And in stead of being togatus a gowned man, he became civis penulatus, a cloaked Citizen, yet not like one of the superiour rancke of Citizens, but one of the inferiour sort, being thus very neatly apparelled in a cloake, and stockings and shoes, sometimes Witt would weare a Ruler by his side, and then hee was supposed to be a Carpenter, Bricklayer, or Plasterer, sometimes he would haue a hammer under his girdle, and then he was taken for a Smith or Upholsterer, or a Deuterer, or some other Hammer man, sometimes he would haue a Parchment measure in his pocket, or some patterne to cut out by, and then hee went for a Taylor, sometimes he would put on a greene waistcoate and sprinckle his face with meale, and then hee was supposed to be a Miller, a Healeman, or a Baker: sometimes he would blacke his fingers with shoemakers war, and weare a Shoemakers thimble on his finger, and then he was thought to be a Shoemaker or a Cobler. Sometimes he would get on a frock, and

Witts Tearme.

and then hee was a Porter. And some times hee would put on a Watermans Jacket, and then he was a Sculler. And to conclude Witt by the helpe of his friend the broaker would shift & change himselfe into all shapés and habits, and so conuersing and keeping company with all sorts of people, hee could not chuse but haue matter enough for his obseruation, which was that which hee desir'd, for the end and scope of his intention, was to observe and take notice of the fashions and carriages of the cittie, especially in the Terme time, for hee knew that the body politicke was then most full of humours, whereupon Witt being thus disguised in the habit of a Citizen, and having a Carpenters Ruler by his side, hee went forth into the Cittie, to see where the blind Fortune would conduct him, intending as I said in a merry manner to practise on the ignorance, and weaknesse of the People, and so walking through the Cittie as Diogenes did through Athens with Candle and lantern, hee changed at last to passe by the red lattice of an Alehouse, where it seemes the strong drinke began to worke

Witts second
practise.

Witts Tearme.

in their bzaines, so that they were singing merry catches, and roaring like Bulles of Basan, so that Witt looking up, and perceiuing it was the signe of the Anchoz, hee thought to cast Ankoz heere a while. And so comming in hee found these were the Alehouse quirkers, whose voyces hee had heard, namely, two Carpenters, a stone cutter, a bzicklayer and the host of the house. Whereupon Witt calling for a full pot or double pot of Ale presently insinuated himselfe into their company, and having a ruler under his girdle, one of them asked him of what profession hee was: Witt answered that he was *ædificiorum vel domuum Fabricator*, that is in b. iefe, hee was a Carpenter: whereupon the two other Carpenters told him that hee was the more welcome, and likewise the stone-cutter, the bzicklayer and the host, did all bid him welcome, and having dranke to him with some drunken complement, one of them who had got the hickocke would needes tell him a very serious story, but Witt put him out by drinking unto him, so that hee as soone as hee had pledg'd him, was faine to goe
sozth

Witts Tearme.

so:th and utter his minde in the yard, where he had no audience, but a few old tubbes and other rubbigge which stood there. But at last hee comes in againe, like a drunken Penitent, while sinne and drunkennesse did even enforce him to wepe for sinne, for his eyes were full of water, which he wiped with his handkercher, and then hee set himselfe freshly to drincking and began a catch, while some of the rest boare their parts; so that Witt thought it a heillish harmony, for he could not rellish such vulgar stufte, and therefore hee busied himselfe with taking a pipe of Tobacco, which hee thought was a more gentile musicke than their rude voyces. And while hee was taking his Tobacco hee drew these meditations which hee kept in memory untill hee had opportunity to write them downe in his table-booke. His first meditation was, that these Alehouses were the Chappells of ease, and idlenes, whether those de media & infima plebe, that is, those of the middle and lowest rancke of common people doe frequent. That their mirth heere, is divided into two sorts, either scoffing, iéring iests,

The humour
of a Drunk
ard.

Witts meditation
on an
Alehouse.

Witts Tearmē.

jest, or obscene balady jests. That the
host lobes money without your company,
but hee lobes not your company without
money. That singing is there musicke
whereas they keepe no tyme, for when
their heads are full of Crotchets, they
will sitt up untill twelbe a clocke sing-
ing catches. That the drinking rooms
are Cupids closets, where they conspire,
and agree about midnight matches.
That drunkenness becomes a Carpen-
ter or a Joyner better then a Gentle-
man, who should not onely know vertue,
but liue vertuously, or else hee deserves to
be degraded of that title. That drinke
is a strange disguise, for it makes a man
so blinde that he does not know himselfe,
nor where he is, nor what he doth. That
Alehouses thotts among the common
people neuer wound the purse much, for
the thotte scatters among the whole com-
pany. That drunkards when they
have least Witt, thinke themselbe most
wise. That it is no good place to chuse
a friend, for they will bee kinde in their
drinke, and the next day bee ready to cut
your throat. That they will sweare
here like freeholders, that is as long as
they

Witts Tearme.

they are freeholders of the Alehouse. That they will talke nonsense ex tempore, and quarrell about any occasion, and for one word they will give you a hundred words. That here is great puffing and blowing, especially, when the Tobacco pipes are lighted, and then their actions may bee divided into foure sorts, Drinking, discoursing, smoking, spitting, and their passions are divided into foure more, quarrelling, complementing, singing, and paying the reckoning, the last whereof, namely, the passion of paying the reckoning is the worst, for it is accompanied alwaies with a Delerium or swimming of the head. That men commonly loose foure things, and sometimes a fifth, by frequenting Alehouses, viz. They lose their time, their money, their credit, and their senses, and I feare their soules. That it is a house that hath many Inmates, and yet the Statute takes no hold of them, for they are but Tennants at will, so that when they have payed their rent, (which is too deare a rent for a drinking roome, they may leabe it to the host, who straight letts it out to the next company that comes,

Witts Tearme.

comes, and thus severall reckonings doe pay the Hosts rent, who might bee a Lord of a Towne for hee hath moze Tenants than the best of them, but his rent is not payd quarterly or yearely, but daily and hourly, and if a man be too long a Tenant to any of his rooms, and spends little, he will put him out by a Habeas corpus, and desire him to give place to some company that desires that roome, when indeede hee desires to have his roome in stead of his company. In a word, an Alehouse is a place where much time, much money, many words, much Tobacco, much paper, much drinke are spent, and cast away, and in stead thereof there is nothing gotten, or lent, but losse of time, poverty and beggery, a profane custome of swearing, idle tobacco taking, and a head full of drinke. And that Carpenters are honest fellows, which though they live by the square, the rule, and the compasse, yet they neither live within rule, square, or compasse. That they know how to fashion the Timber for the fabricke of a building, and they cannot endure brick building because it hath little timber worke.

The descrip-
tion of a Car-
penter.

wozke. That their children are Chipps
of the old Blocke. That in sawing of
Timber hee that stands above is like the
Client, & he that stands below is like the
Lawyer, for the dust fallles down to him.
That Bricklayers are mortified men,
though they are sometimes troubled with
their stones before they can tell how to
lay them. That their pendicular line
or plummet line, keepes their woꝝke e-
ven and straight, and by the helpe of this
weake line, they make strong woꝝke.
That they are honest plain dealing men,
and yet they have cunning in dawbing.
That some times they climbe too high
that they catch a fall, and so many tymes
doe put their best ioints to the hazzard.
That they may keepe a good table at
home, but when they are abroad their
morter is serbed up to them in Trapes.
They place brickets in the wall, as Poets
doe words in their verses, that is in a
smooth and even manner. Their woꝝke
is the Emblem of Hypocrisie, for they
can white ober a mudd wall and make
it seeme very faire outwardly, when
underneath it is nothing but rotten
lathes and loame. That when the
Tower

The descrip-
tion of a Brick
layer.

Witts Tearme.

The descrip-
tion of an
Hoast.

Tower of Babell was built, there was
surely a great company of Bricklayers.
That an Hoast is an under Landlord, or
petty Landlord of some Alehouse. That
his nose is richer than the Rockes in
China, and is full of carbuncles and redd
Rubies, so that hee may goe to bed by the
light of it, for if hee follow his Nose it
will guide him to his Chamber. That he
is every mans companion, but no mans
freind. That his discourse is frothie as
his drinke. That hee is Baccus Stan-
dardbearer, and carries his culloures in
his face, lastly he may be an honest man,
but yet he must needs wincke at Sinne
and Drunkenesse, though hee take a nap
for the tyme, or else hee will dye a Beg-
ger. Witt having framed these medita-
tions in his braine, purposed afterward
to collect them into some forme, and set
them downe in writing, so that percei-
ving that the company was very farre
spent in drinke, so that the two Carpen-
ters sang very woodenly, and the Brick-
layer layd up his minde there befoze
them all; and the Stone cutter was cut
in the legge, and the Host had got the
foxes skinne over his head in stead of a
night

Witts Téarme.

night-cap: When Witt I say percei-
 bed that they were all gone in drinke,
 then Witt was presently gone too, for Witt leaves
 hee flunke away, and as soone as Witt loathes the
 was gone, the Carpenters fell to quar- company of
 relling about their trades, & one of them drunkenness
 pretended that he was moze skillfull than
 the other, so that they fell to hot arguing
 and disppuation about the making of a
 paire of Geometricall stayres; the stone-
 cutter who had got the Pickock endeavo-
 red to reconcile them, wishing them to
 leabe of that discourse, and the host
 thinking to have fetcht another Jugge
 of beare, fell over a Joyne skole, and
 broke his shinnes very sorely, and after-
 ward he fell asleepe with the tappe in his
 hand, while all the drinke ranne about
 the seller, for as long as Witt is in com-
 pany men doe carry themselves with
 some discretion, but as soone as he leaves
 them, then diuers sorts of follies are
 committed, and sundry mischeses doe
 ensue. But next morning Witte came
 to them againe, (for his custome is, that
 though he forsake his friends for a time
 yet hee will come againe) so I say Witt
 next morning came to them, and brought
 with him,

After folly is
 committed,
 Witt returns
 in the mor-
 ning, and
 brings Repen-
 tance with
 him.

with him one of his deere companions
 called repentance, and they two so
 farre prebailled over these drunkards
 by their perswasions, that at last they
 resolved to forsake that detestable vice;
 And Witt upon that occasion made a
 song called, I will neber bee drunke a-
 gaine, &c. And this was Witts first
 practise in the habit of a Citizen. His
 second practise was in another victual-
 ling house or Alehouse where hee lighted
 into the company of a Miller, a Tinker,
 a Cobler, a Doxter, a Butcher, and the
 Tapster of the house, who sate and drank
 with them, and as soon as Witt came
 in he had him welcome, and because hee
 was alone the other iobiall blades who
 were drinking hard, and smocking their
 noses with Tobacco, desired him to sit
 downe, for if it pleased him they should be
 glad of his company, whereupon Witt
 opening his cloake which before hee had
 cast over his shoulders, as soon as the
 company saw that he had a leather apron
 before him, and a hammer under his
 girdle, they supposed him to bee a ham-
 mer man, and one asking him of what
 profession hee was, he answered that hee
 was

Witts Tearme.

patient fellowes that could beare any
burthen. That albeit they were citty
Mees and beare the Luggage of the
Cittie on their backs, yet they have
understanding enough if you put them
to triall. That they weare two Shirts
when others doe scarcely were one.
That they may say as the Poet said,
superanda omnis fortuna ferendo est,
that is, all misfortune may be over-
come by sufferance and patient bea-
ring of them. Lastly, a Porter is a
Letterman, though hee know never
a Letter, in company by out of com-
pany hee is a fellow of good carriage.
Also Witts observed, That a Butcher
though hee kill and sell meate, yet
hee is many times no great meate-
man. That his killing of meate is
but a kinde of sacrificing to gluttony.
That hee sells all his Calves heads,
except it be one which hee keeps
for his owne use. That hee cuttes
out his meate with great discretion,
and sunbastes it with traliching like
shivers to make it seeme faire and
soft. Lastly, hee is a good fellow, and
a good fellow.

Witts descrip-
tion of a
Butcher.

Witts Tearme.

Witts descrip-
tion of a Tap-
ster.

he loves Celler very well, because
that shire sends up many fatt calves
and hogges to London: But at last
death knockes him downe with a
stroke int betwene the hoznes, and
so this bloody Nero endeth his raigne.
Lastly, Witt noted that a Tapster
was a frothy fellow, that was servile
to every mans humour, and subiect
to every mans call. That he is the
Master Gunner in Bacchus his Lea-
guer, and gibes fire to the Tobacco
pipes. What Quid est persolvendum?
or what is to pay? is a question that
is often put unto him, which hee
answers and resolves by a distinction,
that partialiter, there is a penny
bread, five pence drinke, and
two pence Tobacco, &c. and totaliter
that there is in all nine-pence to pay.
In a word his Art is to bring in a
totall reckoning, and then divide it
into parts, or else to bring in the
particulars, and then to reduce them
to a totall. In a word a Tapster
is an honest good fellow, and hence
hee is called a Tapster, because hee
drinks

Witts Tearme.

Stirres the tappe often, with pulling it out, and wizing it in, and at length he many times sets up for himselfe, and becomes an Poast. Witt obserbed many other persons, and made and witt many other discriptions of them, for when he had transformed himselfe into a new shape, hee would goe into fresh company, and conberse and keepe company with Taylors, Bakers, Cookes, Smiths, Chandelers, Joyners, Others, Watermen and the like, the discriptions of whose Persons and humours doe follow in the next Chapter.



The third Chapter.

How Witt in the habit of a Citizen kept company still with Taylers, Bakers, Cookes, Smiths, Chandlers, Ioyners, Oflers, Watermen and the like, and made certaine descriptions of their persons and humours, which doe briefly follow.



Itt being still disguised in the habit of a Citizen, thought to persist and goe forward still in the describing and discovering the persons and humours of all sorts of people, and so going forth into the Cittie, it began to raine so violently, that hee was compelled to save himselfe from the iniury of the weather hee went into an Alehouse, where he found a messe or medley of boone companions, and good fellows, who because it was a rainy day thought

Witts Tearme.

thought it better to wett themselves within, and keepe themselves dry without. The ioyfull lads that were thus tyed together in a true-lovers knot of good fellowship were these: namely, a Tayler, a Baker, a Cooke, a Smith, a Chandler, a Joyner, an Ostler, and a Waterman. Witt being admitted into their company, (for there is no company but will desire & admit of Witts company) drew these descriptions of their Persons, and Humours, viz. That a Tayler without any skill in Geometry takes the dimentions of your bodie. That his wife has authozity to goe fine by her husbands coppie. That hee is neuer without two geese, the one is alwaies roasting, and yet is euer raw; the other is alwaies raw & is neuer roasted. That he loves new fashions as well as Amsterdamm brethren love Factions. That an ill conscience is a hell, but his hell is under or about his shopboord, where he casts all his stolen remnants, and so keepes hell out of his conscience. That hee and the Mercer doe make a gallant, but he spoyleth them both, especially the

Witts description of a Tayler.

Witts Tearme.

Taylor, who must bee glad to petition his worship for his dew. That a long bill is a shrewd weapon, and no man handles it better then a Taylor. That there are many fashions which haue come up and gone downe since Adam made himselfe breeches of figge leaues. That wealth is a kinde of stiffening to the Taylor, and makes him thinke himselfe a fine fellow. That his discourse is either sustian or bumbast. That hee weares good linings in his breeches, for his wife is Churched oftner than any woman in the Parish. Lastly, when hee dies he windes up his bottom and so makes an end.

Witts description
of a Baker

Also Witt noted that a Baker is a dye
croffie fellow, because for the most part
hee deales upon vantage. That hee
is drunke with bread, for the taking in of
halfe a dozen setts him going at any
tyme. That hee is sometimes enfor't to
look out of a wodden window. His bread
is diuided into three sorts, according to
the three diuisions of the people, his white
bread is for the best sort, his wheaten
bread for the middle rancke, and his
brown

Witts Tearme.

brovne bread for the vulgar sort. That a Tayler loves a Baker, because hee loves bread. That hee never gives any thing to the poore, though sometimes his bread is taken from him & given to the poore. That a Bakers widow is a brown lasse, and brings a man both bread and flesh. In a word his bread is finer than himselfe, for hee is but the bzanne of the world.

Besides Witt observed that a Cooke was a greasie sweating profession, that does almost wast himself while his meat is roasting. That his chiefeft ambition is to raise paste well, and season meat discretely. Hee makes great stoeze of Porrige or broth, which hee selles by halfe penyworths, or else you pay for your broth in your meate. That if you anger him you shall finde him a hott paffe fellow, and the summer times melts his grease within him. That when his wife and he fall out, then all the fatts in the fire.

He noted also that a Smith was one that had many heates, and yet took no coldes. That Vulcans fortune and
his

Witts description of a Cooke.

Witts description of a Smith.

Witts Tearmē.

his are on. That he is never endited of forgetrie, though hee is alwaies forging for though hee palone all his tooles, yet he keepe his vice. That hee loves the Iron age, because it is likely there were than many Smiths. Lastly, though he be a very smug fellow, yet his wife seldome loves him.

Witts descrip-
tion of a
Chandler.

Whereas, Witt noted that a Chandler was a light brained fellow that sold candles and other small commodities by retaile. That he is a wooden scholler, for he keepe his reckonings in wooden Books. That he cuts out pennyworths of cheese by the length of his Nose, and makes the proverbe true, I will see your nose cheese first. That hee sells little quantities, and many times there are as little good qualities in his commodities. He should be a wise man, for he weighes every thing: And lastly, if he uses good weights he may be an honest man.

Witts descrip-
tion of a Joy-
ner.

Witt also noted that a Joyner could not chuse but be a good companion by his Profession, for all good fellowes are Joyners, and Joyners are good fellowes. That in all wood worke they are excellent, and doe make Bedsteads and Cup-
boards,

Wittes Tearme.

boards, and would keepe no table at all; if hee could sell off those hee has. That if you take him for a ioyne stole you doe him much wrong, for hee will sitten on or take any Intury. He is a nimble shaper, and hee deales most with deale wood, which being of a softly nature hee can make an asse of it, and cutt it and carbe it into any fashion.

And besides Witt conceived that an Ostler was a Rubber of Irrationall Animals or Creatures. That he speakes notherne speech, and will cosen a southerman with his faire speech. If you trust the Ostler to meate your horse, hee will enioyne him some pennance and keepe him fasting, that so hee may abate the pride of his flesh, though you desire to have him lustie. That when hee is abroad hee will stay three or foure dayes drinking, and lie at racke and manger, and yet hee will get it againe out of the racke and manger. That on the roade hee will pull off your bootes with great dexterity, and habing set him to his meate, hee rubbs him downe, and afterward habing made his bed, goes home-ly

Witts Tearmē.

ly to a woyle bedfellow, than the hoyle,
namely, the old trott his wife. And
thus an Ostler is a hoyle-man that
does not serbe in the warrs, but serbes
hoyles.

Witts descrip-
tion of a Wa-
erman.

Lastly, Witt noted that a Water-
man was one that libed by water, and
yet hee drinks the best beere hee can
gett. His blew coate and cognisance
agrees as well as a Pot of Ale and a
Loafe. That hee cares not if London
Bridge were quite demolisht, for it hin-
ders him. The Globe Playhouse on
the bankeside, is like a bladder under
one Arme, and Westminster is like a
Bladder under the other Arme, for if it
were not for these two he would sincke.
Lastly, hee would live on the water, but
desires to die on the land.

Witt having thus dratone forth the
descriptions of these severall persons,
when he perceived that the Tayler had
wound up his bottom so long that now
he could not take his cuppes in any mea-
sure neither halfe ones nor whole ones,
& that the Baker had tooke in so many
halfe dozens that now hee is forced to
cast

Witts Tearme.

call them up againe with vantage, when
Witt perceiued that they were all gone
in drinke, than Witt was gone too; and so
winding home to his lodging he wrote
these descriptions of the persons & humors
which as they made him merry in writ-
ting, so he hopes they will make you mer-
ry in reading, for no man can shew any
discretion or Witt in disliking
that which was written

By Witt.

The



The Readers are Witts Clients, and if
he discerns,
That you kinde Readers doe like of his
Tearme :
And that his Hillarie Tearme doe cheere
your heart,
You may expect from Witt a second
part.



